



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

**Date:** 5/22/2003

**GAIN Report Number:** GM3017

## Germany

### Poultry and Products

## Update on Avian Influenza in Germany 2003

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**Report Highlights:**

Two suspected outbreaks in the German municipality of Kleve have been confirmed to not be avian influenza. Additional measures for the prevention of the spread of the disease were adopted. Zoo animals and endangered species may be vaccinated in areas West of the river Rhine.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Berlin [GM1]  
[GM]

This report is a follow-up to GAIN reports GM3013 and GM3014 of May 9 and 13, 2003.

On Tuesday, May 13, 2003, the State Government of North Rhine-Westphalia enlarged the 10 kilometer surveillance zone to 20 km. Two additional outbreaks within this zone were suspected on Thursday, May 15, 2003 in the municipality of Kleve. Meanwhile, tests showed with highest probability that the disease on the two premises was not caused by avian influenza. The two affected flocks of 11,500 and 120 chickens, hens, geese and ducks had already been preventively killed. The two farms may resume their farming after disinfection of the premises.

The following measure were taken in addition to the measure described in GM3013 as of May 16, 2003:

1. Live poultry, hatching eggs and fresh, unprocessed, and non-heat-treated poultry manure or litter, may not be dispatched from North Rhine-Westphalia to other parts of Germany, to other EU Member States or to third countries.
2. Live poultry and hatching eggs may not be transported within North Rhine-Westphalia.

The competent veterinary authority, may authorize the transport from the area east of the river Rhine in other regions of Germany under certain conditions for:

- a) Poultry for immediate slaughter to a slaughterhouse that has been designated by the competent veterinary authority.
  - b) Day-old chicks to a holding under official control where no other poultry is kept.
  - c) Hatching eggs, to a hatchery under official control.
3. Vehicles transporting poultry feed have to clean and disinfect the wheels and the underneath parts of the vehicle directly before entering and after leaving a poultry farm. The disinfectants and the method of cleaning and disinfection must be approved by the competent authority. The disinfection has to be documented and documents have to be kept in the vehicle.
  4. Table eggs shall only be transported from a holding to a packing station either in disposable packaging or in containers, trays and other non-disposable equipment, which must be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use. The disinfectants and the method of cleaning and disinfection must be approved by the competent authority.
  5. Poultry workers are requested to wear protective clothing that can be disinfected after use.
  6. Fresh poultry meat obtained from slaughter poultry originating from the established surveillance zones:
    - (a) shall be marked with a round format mark in accordance with the further requirements of the competent authorities;
    - (b) shall not be dispatched to other Member States or third countries;
    - (c) must be obtained, cut, stored and transported separately from other fresh poultry meat destined for intra-Community trade and for exports to third countries, and must be used in such a way as to avoid it being introduced into meat products or meat preparations intended for intra-Community trade or for export to third countries, unless it has undergone the treatment specified in table 1(a), (b) or (c) of Annex III to Directive 2002/99/EC.

These measures are based on EU decision 2003/358/EC and apply until May 30, 2003. On May 28, 2003 the EU committee responsible for this issue, the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health will review the situation.

The derogation for transport to slaughterhouses is of particular importance to the North Rhine-Westphalian poultry industry as there is not enough slaughter capacity in North Rhine-Westphalia itself to slaughter all poultry that is produced in this state locally.

As of May 17, 2003, zoo animals and endangered poultry species may be vaccinated in areas West of the river Rhine.

Related links:

Chronology of outbreak in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany starting 28 February 2003 compiled by the EU Commission

[http://europe.eu.int/comm/food/fs/ah\\_pcad/ah\\_pcad\\_77\\_en.pdf](http://europe.eu.int/comm/food/fs/ah_pcad/ah_pcad_77_en.pdf)

EU decision 2003/358/EC of 12 May 2003 concerning protection measures in relation to a strong suspicion of avian influenza in Germany

[http://europe.eu.int/eur-lex/en/dat/2003/L\\_123/L\\_12320030517en00550058.pdf](http://europe.eu.int/eur-lex/en/dat/2003/L_123/L_12320030517en00550058.pdf)

German regulations concerning the prevention of the spread of avian influenza (German)

[www.verbraucherministerium.de/verbraucher/gefluegelpest/eil-vo-verschleppung-10-05-03.pdf](http://www.verbraucherministerium.de/verbraucher/gefluegelpest/eil-vo-verschleppung-10-05-03.pdf)

[www.verbraucherministerium.de/verbraucher/gefluegelpest/eil-vo-verschleppung.pdf](http://www.verbraucherministerium.de/verbraucher/gefluegelpest/eil-vo-verschleppung.pdf)